

New York doesn't have 14 percent of the populations in America."

New York groups got large chunks of funding in the most recent grant cycle, including \$60,000 to the Dance Theater of Harlem, \$100,000 to the Metropolitan Opera, \$150,000 to the New York Philharmonic and \$200,000 to the New York City Ballet.

In Washington, the Humanities Council got a \$50,000 grant for a project involving writers, and the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Co. got \$64,000 for a theater project with young people and adults in the Shaw neighborhood.

Other grants include \$45,000 to the Fairfax County public schools system for its plan to use its Arts in Elementary Schools program at Mosby Woods Elementary as a model for 134 other county elementary schools.

The Institute of Musical Traditions in Silver Spring received \$18,000 for an outreach program to low-income schools and for its programs for traditional folk artist.

Grants for \$100,000 went to opera companies in Houston and Los Angeles. The National Foundation for Jewish Culture in New York got \$100,000, as did the Nebraska Arts Council and the Atlantic Center for the Arts in New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM THE FED- ERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H. Con. Res. 82 calling for the removal of U.S. troops from their positions in connection with the present operation against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

This has been a very troubled region for centuries. In recent years, the U.S. Department of State has reported that the civil war in Kosovo between the Serbian government and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has heightened. In recent weeks, while the NATO attacks on the Serbian police and troops in Serbia's Kosovo province have increased, the Serb forces have heightened their efforts to remove ethnic Albanians from Kosovo. Ironically, the President argued that airstrikes were needed in order to keep this very action

from taking place. Unfortunately, the airstrikes only heightened these atrocities.

Unfortunately, there are no easy answers. It now seems apparent that President Clinton's decision to begin a bombing campaign was not the right decision and that is why I opposed the resolution supporting U.S. military action before the NATO bombing attacks began. Indeed, the Washington Post has reported that many military leaders doubted Mr. Clinton's bombing strategy would end the civil war in Kosovo. Unfortunately, they have been proved right.

As a Member of Congress I have the responsibility to ask the following questions, "Is the situation in Kosovo in our national interest?" If it is in our national interest I must ask myself, "Am I willing to say to my constituents and my neighbors that I believe the lives of their sons and daughters in the military should be placed in jeopardy by sending them into battle in Kosovo?" I say NO to both. We do not have a national interest in Kosovo and we should not risk the lives of our men and women in uniform.